(e) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) A formal invitation for an India visit was extended to Prime Minister of Israel on February 4, 2003.

(c) No.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

India's stand on Tibet

495. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has changed its stand that the Autonomous Region of Tibet is now recognised as a part of People's Republic of China;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, what stand was taken by India during the Prime Minister's recent visit to China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) There is no change in India's position on Tibet.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the Declaration on Principle for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation signed by the two Prime Ministers on June 23, 2003, it is stated that "the Indian side recognizes that the Tibet Autonomous Region is part of the territory of the People's Republic of China".

Changes in VISA Rules by U.S.A.

496. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAJRS be pleased to state: